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RC-2888

22 June 1955

DEFECTOR RECEPTION CENTER

Preliminary Interrogation Report on Defector Serial #636

Introduction

Bona fides of the subject of this report has not been fully established. However, preliminary interrogations indicate that he will probably provide genuine information on the topics listed in paragraph 5, below.

SUBJECT: DS-636, a 61-year-old architect and former Czechoslovak national, was last employed as a foreman with the United Steel Works National Enterprise in Kladno (N49-47, E15-59), Czechoslovakia. A Sudeten German, who automatically became a German citizen when the Sudetenland was annexed by Germany in 1938, he was recently granted an exit permit from the Czechoslovak government for resettlement in the GDR. He came to West Germany in May 1955.

1. Personal Data

Subject was born 5 July 1894 in Risuty (N50-13, E14-00). His parents, both deceased, were farmers. He is a widower and has an 18-year-old son whom he adopted in 1939. DS-636 has three brothers and three sisters all of whom are living in Germany. He is a Roman Catholic who attends church only occasionally. Subject was never a member of the Communist Party. He was, however, a member of the NSDAP from 1939 to 1945. During that same period he was also a member of the Allgemeine (civilian) SS and attained the rank of Sturmbannfuehrer (major) in that organization. When World War II ended with the capitulation of Germany, subject, being a high-ranking government official and an officer in the Allgemeine SS was found to be in the automatic arrest category. He was arrested by US military authorities in May 1945 and since he was a Czechoslovak national he was turned over to the Czechoslovak government for trial. A Czechoslovak court found him guilty of war crimes as a member of the NSDAP and a Sturmbannfuehrer in the Allgemeine SS and sentenced him to eight years imprisonment at hard labor. He served his full sentence and was released in August 1953. Subject may be interrogated in Czech or German.

2. Education and Employment

1900 - 1904 Subject attended the elementary school in Selkovice, District Bilina, Czechoslovakia.

1904 - 1908 He attended the Higher Elementary School in Bilina (N50-30, E13-48). Throughout elementary schooling subject made excellent grades.

1908 - 1912 At the gymnasium in Duchcov (N50-36, E13-45) subject took the standard gymnasium courses, received excellent grades, passed his maturity examination and was graduated.

1912 - 1918 He attended the Technical University - Department of Interior Decorating, in Vienna, Austria. In 1914, subject was drafted into the Austro-Hungarian Army. However, during several home leaves within the period 1914 to 1918, subject continued to attend the Technical University irregularly. He finally completed his university training and in 1919 received his degree as an architect, specializing in interior decorating.

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1918 - 1920 DS-636 was employed as a furniture designer and technical advisor at the Anton Kornhauser Furniture Company, Podebradska Street, Prague-Karlin, CSR. His salary was 1,800 crowns per month.

1920 - 1938 He was employed as manager of the Haun Kunst A.G., Furniture Factory in Kynsperk nad Ohri (N50-07, E12-32). His duties entailed complete supervision of all the factory's activities. His starting salary was 2,500 crowns per month; final salary was 3,600 crowns per month.

1938 - 1943 Subject was employed by the German Government, Ministry of Interior. He was appointed to the position of mayor of the city of Kynsperk nad Ohri by German occupation authorities. During the period 1940 to 1942 he served with the Waffen (military) SS, but he was still officially mayor of the city. His salary was 700 reichsmarks per month.

1943 - 1945 Subject was promoted and appointed to the position of district commissioner for Kutna Hora (N49-57, E15-16). He was charged with the supervision and control of all government functions in the district of Kutna Hora, CSR. His salary in this capacity was 1,050 reichsmarks per month.

1945 - 1947 Subject was a political prisoner. During this period he was first in US Army custody, then in Soviet Army custody, returned to US Army custody and finally turned over to Czechoslovak authorities.

1947 - July 1948 A political prisoner sentenced to hard labor, DS-636 was detailed to work as a laborer at Banska a hutni, n.p. (Mines and Foundries National Enterprise) in Kolin (N50-02, E15-12). He was engaged in mining antimony. His pay was 0.15 crowns per hour and he usually worked about 60 hours a week.

July 1948 - Dec. 1948 He was detailed as a political prisoner to work in Cihelna, Cervene Pecky n.p. (Brickworks, National Enterprise) in Cervene Pecky (N49-59, E15-13). His pay as a manual laborer was 0.15 crowns per hour for an average 60 hour week.

1949 - 1950 He was detailed as a political prisoner to work in the production of steel at Spojene ocelarny, n.p. (United Steel Works National Enterprise) in Kladno. He worked as a manual laborer and was paid 5,000 crowns (old currency) per month.

Jan. 1951 - Feb. 1951 He was detailed as a political prisoner to mine hard coal in the Czechoslovak Army Coal Mine located in Rynholec (N50-08, E13-55). His pay for the month's work was 6,000 crowns (old currency).

Feb. 1951 - June 1953 He was detailed as a political prisoner to mine hard coal in Dul Fierlingr I and II (Fierlingr Coal Mines I and II). Fierlingr I was located in Vinarice (N50-11, E14-05) and Fierlingr II was located in Libusin (N50-10, E14-03). His pay was 6,000 crowns (old currency), 1,400 crowns (new currency), per month.

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July 1953 - Aug. 1953 He was detailed as a political prisoner to mine hard coal in the Tmavy dul (Dark Coal Mine) located in Rtyne (N50-22, E15-53). His pay was 1,500 crowns (new currency) per month. In August 1953, subject was released from imprisonment.

Aug. 1953 - Apr. 1955 Subject was employed as a foreman at Spojene ocelarny, n.p. (United Steel Works National Enterprise) in Kladno where he had worked as a political prisoner in 1949. In his position as foreman he supervised the work of a 12-man team servicing three Siemens-Martin furnaces. His salary was 2,000 crowns per month.

3. Military History

1914 - 1918 Subject served in the Austro-Hungarian Army. He was a second lieutenant.

1940 - 1942 He served in the Waffen (military) SS with the rank of Sturmbannfuehrer (major). He was returned to a civilian SS status in 1942 because he had been severely wounded on the Eastern Front and because his services were sorely needed in the field of civil administration.

4. Qualifications

DS-636 appears to be a steady, well balanced individual. From time to time, however, he enjoys making sarcastic remarks concerning what he considers "Western mistakes" in dealing with the USSR during and after World War II. As a former Nazi official, he is still a little bitter concerning the treatment he received in 1945, i.e., the fact that he was turned over by the US military authorities first to the Soviets and later to the Czechoslovak government. His present willingness to cooperate with US intelligence authorities does not stem from any feeling of friendship. Rather, it is motivated by his intense hatred of Communists in general and Czechoslovak Communists in particular. Aside from his flair for sarcasm, DS-636 has a pleasant personality and he gives every indication that he will cooperate fully in interrogations. His Standard Score on the Army Non-Language Test indicates above-average native intelligence. His memory and powers of observation appear to be very good, in addition to which his drafting ability is outstanding.

5. Knowledgeability

Most of subject's knowledgeability consists of industrial and economic information. That of a military nature is slight. The items of knowledgeability which appear below will be covered as a matter of course during the interrogation of subject; reports will be published in the RC series. Requirements reflecting your office's specific interests in these topics and additional topics should be forwarded as soon as possible for use during interrogations.

a. Detailed information concerning Spojene ocelarny, n.p. (United Steel Works National Enterprise) in Kladno. He can pinpoint, sketch and describe the plant in detail. He can also provide general information concerning management, labor, equipment, production, etc.

b. General information, including pinpoint locations, sketches, equipment, and approximate production figures, concerning the following mines:

The Czechoslovak Army Coal Mine in Rynholec

Pierlingr Coal Mine I in Vinarice

Pierlingr Coal Mine II in Libusin

The Dark Coal Mine in Rtyne

c. General information on everyday life in Czechoslovakia with emphasis on the German minority situation and the effects of foreign broadcasts and leaflets on the population of the industrial areas where subject was employed.

d. Detailed information, including pinpoint location and sketch concerning an air raid shelter in Kladno.

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